

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 5, 2011**

DRAFT

**PRESENT:** John (Jack) Fleming, Chair; Dennis Swartwout, Bradford (Brad) Allen, James (Jim) Canning, William (Bill) Bacis, and Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator.

**7:00 PM OPEN FORUM** Opportunity for residents to come in and ask questions, discuss wetland concerns with the Conservation Commission. No decisions will be made at this time, all items will be taken under advisement. Individual time may be limited by the number of persons waiting to speak. The Chair announced that the meeting is being recorded. Lin Pickle told the Commission he has seen a coyote and fox cross his backyard this winter. Commission welcomed Colin Macomber to the meeting. He is a resident and new lawyer who had contacted Janice as being interested in helping the Commission, and came tonight for the bylaw regulations review.

**7:05 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS.** No bills payable. Janice told the Commission the demolition work at *Elmer Brook* by Water Dept #2 is completed. No action yet on the house construction at *80 River Road*. Janice handed out copies of the *2012 budget* sheets she submitted to the Town Administrator and Accounting on Monday. They include a level budget for next year, revenue this year so far, list of budget changes if required to take a 5% cut and departmental accomplishments. Enough time has passed that it is safe to say there was no appeal filed to the Commission's Determination on *325 East Street*. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of November 17 & 29 and December 8, 2010 as written. Brad seconded, and all voted in favor. *McCray's APR* has been completed, and recorded in the Registry of Deeds on Friday December 31, 2010. Request for *Emergency Certification* from DPW. This request just came in today. DPW is asking to remove a few beaver dams along Judd Brook near sewer manhole #24. Janice visited the site this afternoon with Yem Lip, DPW engineer. There are actually a few sewer manholes that are underwater because of the dams. This creates infiltration of excess water into the sewer line and sewage treatment plant. Janice said there was a similar request for removal of beaver dams along Judd Brook near manhole 20 in January 2007. This sewer line will always be a problem because it was installed in the wetland near the stream, and the water moves around because of the beaver dams, sometimes flooding the line. It is too wet and soft to get into with trucks when not frozen. Brad made the motion to approve issuance of the Emergency Certification to DPW. Dennis seconded, and all voted in favor.

**7:15 PM DISCUSSION** on the latest draft of the Wetlands Bylaw Regulations. Commission discussed the regulations overall and in particular. Dennis suggested some case studies to use as examples to work through the regulations and see if there are any problems. Janice will work on a few short examples. Brad wanted to know if the Commission could raise the fine to something larger than \$100 over time. Janice thought the Commission was limited by some authority to \$100, but will check on it. Many specific revisions were suggested throughout

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the text. Janice will make revisions, and send to the Commission for review again. Goal is to get this instituted in the next month or two. Commission discussed a change in meeting date from January 26<sup>th</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, since two commissioners will not be able to make it on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Commission agreed to change meeting to February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**9:15 PM ADJOURNMENT.** Jim made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Brad, and all voted in favor. Next regular Conservation Commission meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stone,  
Conservation Administrator

Materials distributed or reviewed during the meeting for decision-making. They are all filed in the folders of the relevant project.

1. Administrator Notes for 1/5/11 meeting (in notebook with Conservation Commission Meeting Agendas and Minutes).
2. 2012 Budget information.
3. Draft of wetland bylaw regulations dated 12/23/10.
4. Request for Emergency Certification from DPW, with field photos by Janice.